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ABSTRACT

This document presents a listing of those news events for 1973 that are thought by the author to have the most immediate or potential significance for educators. It is noted that the selections were made primarily from the "Washington Post," "Washington Star-News," "New York Times," and weekly news magazines. The events, ranked in order of present or potential significance, are grouped under the following three divisions: a) World-National-Societal Context for Education; b) Federal, State, and Local Educational Developments; and c) Developments in the Colleges, Schools, and Foundations. (JA)

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TOP NEWS EVENTS OF 1973
RANKED FOR EDUCATORS

Compiled by
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FOREWORD

What events reported in the mass media seem to have the most immediate or potential significance for educators? The items noted below are arbitrary selections, a continuation of selections reported for several years in ERIC News, the former publication of the ERIC Clearinghouse on Teacher Education. My effort has been to select from the broad spectrum of events those which bear most directly on public policy, attitudes, objectives, and activities. Over a period of years, following the media's unfolding panorama of life helps the educator to anticipate events, respond vigorously to them, or seek to change their direction. Clearly, educators function in the context of the nation and world. If educators are to serve as educational leaders, they should be among the best informed persons.

The following listing is of specific actions of educational import (directly or indirectly) or of general conditions which can be inferred from some particular news item. Selections were made primarily from the Washington Post, Washington Star-News, New York Times, and weekly news magazines. Local and state events therefore tend to be slighted. The national wire services don't pick up many local stories, or papers such as those in Washington don't publish them. Educators find it interesting to notice what education-related happenings get reported in major newspapers and news magazines. It behooves all to analyze what the public is reading about education and to become more vigorous in efforts to secure extensive educational coverage in the mass media read by the public.

The selection of 1973 top events and interpretation of those events are personal. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Clearinghouse sponsors or of the federal government. This publication is but one of a series which contributes to the comprehensive educational literature base.

--Joel L. Burdin, Director
ERIC Clearinghouse on Teacher Education

February 1974

THE WORLD-NATIONAL-SOCIETAL CONTEXT FOR EDUCATION (Ranked in order of present or potential significance)

*1. Multinational peace agreement for Viet Nam and varied efforts to extend peace in all of Indo-China; withdrawal of all American forces.

*2. Watergate; the Agnew resignation; continued decline of public confidence in its leaders and institutions.

*3. Supreme Court's ruling that states can deviate from near-absolute application of the one man-one vote concept in reapportioning legislatures.

*4. Beginning of federal revenue sharing program to replace categorical aid-to-education programs--the President's strategy for federal education efforts; education aid amounting to $2.77 billion funneled through the states.

*5. Development of strategy by oil-producing states of the Middle East to force great industrial nations to change their policies toward Israel; negotiated settlement of Arab-Israeli war; first-time direct negotiations in 25 years.

6. Nixon Administration announcement that it would dismantle the Office of Economic Opportunity and subsequent halting of the dismemberment by federal judge's ruling.

7. Severe economic problems such as 6 percent inflation, 4.5 percent unemployment, tremendous food price increases, record high interest rates weakening both housing and stock markets, and devaluation of the dollar.

8. American Telephone and Telegraph (ATT) Company's unprecedented payment of reparations amounting to $15 million, after 1971 charges of Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission that ATT was the largest "oppressor" of women workers and was discriminatory against minority-group males in job assignments and promotions.

9. Spending of record $96.7 billion on governmental and privately funded educational efforts for 59 million students.

10. The endorsement of ultimate increase, in the next decade, of federal support for education from present 6-7% to as much as 30% by Senators Roman L. Hruska, Peter H. Dominick, and Marlow W. Cook--commonly considered conservatives.

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* Indicates author's selection as one of the top ten events of 1973 in terms of direct or indirect present or potential impact on education.

11. Quiet decline of racial strife, campus disruptions, and other societal mass violence.

12. Harris poll finding that 9 of 10 Americans retain faith in U.S. although 53% think "there is something deeply wrong in America today."

13. Report of Fifth Gallup Poll of Public Attitudes toward Education that top concerns are lack of discipline, integration-segregation problems, lack of proper financial support, and difficulty in getting good teachers; curriculum, teachers, school facilities, and extracurricular activities the top four positive aspects.

14. Plan of National Advertising Council to mount a $10 million campaign to warn America of the consequences of losing its "work ethic" and its high production.

15. Report of National Catholic Education Association of a 20% decline in Catholic schools over past 6 years although approximately 10,500 still in operation.

16. Publication of The Coming of Post-Industrial Society: A Venture in Social Forecasting by Daniel Bell.

17. Effect of energy crisis on colleges and schools: increased energy costs, changing hours, lower temperatures, extended vacations, curtailment of school buses for field trips, and cancellation of many night school sessions and activities.

FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS (Ranked in order of present or potential significance)

*1. Budget cuts for many Office of Education and other programs of Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (DHEW); increased funding for the National Institute of Education; and actual or proposed phasing out of a number of "Great Society" programs, changes which sustain, according to DHEW Assistant Secretary Sidney P. Marland, "highest priorities while cutting relatively marginal programs and freeing the Administration for new initiatives."

*2. Supreme Court ruling that de facto segregation in northern states be broken up.

*3. Supreme Court rejection of lower court ruling that largely black Richmond (Va.) city schools be combined with largely white surrounding county schools; continued litigation to determine whether Detroit area districts must use massive busing to integrate their schools, also federal judge's order cutting off federal aid in 17 states for not complying with desegregation requirements.

*4. Claim based on research studies of the Senate Select Committee on Equal Education Opportuntiy that desegregation is best form of compensatory education; U.S. Commission of Civil Rights contract with Rand Corporation to design a $2 million study of the effects of school desegregation on racial attitudes, achievements, and other factors.

*5. Supreme Court ruling that it is constitutional for a state to rely on local property taxes in financing public schools (Rodriguez Decision).

6. U.S. District judge's ruling that the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare must release $20 million in impounded funds appropriated by Congress for operation of state educational programs--one of a series of court rulings heavily in favor of state and private organizations that contested impoundments (at least 30 cases totaling over $1 billion in fiscal 1973).

7. Beginning of $1.2 million National Longitudinal Study by U.S. Office of Education of the nation's graduating class of 1972, involving approximately 18,000 graduates in 1,200 public, private, and church schools, to learn the impact of education on the young.

8. Funding by National Institute of Education (NIE) of 206 proposals, costed out at $11.3 million; total NIE expenditure $106.5 million; establishment of $9 million program by new Fund for Improvement of Postsecondary Education to diversify approaches and increase productivity--award of 89 grants to colleges universities, state governments, and related educational services units.

9. Supreme Court ruling that non-English speaking children have the Constitutional right to special help; U.S. Office of Education report that $35 million spent in 1973 to help local school districts support 213 bilingual projects enrolling 230,000 children.

10. Introduction by Representative Albert H. Quie of an amendment to Title I, Elementary and Secondary Education Act, requiring federal funds be distributed to the states on the basis of demonstrated need for remedial programs in reading and mathematics rather than continue total reliance on poverty and welfare indices.

11. Supreme Court ruling against tax credits and other kinds of state aid for private schools and to parents of children who attend them.

12. One billion dollar school budget reached in Los Angeles and New York City.

13. Supreme Court ruling that a state may charge higher collegiate fees to nonresidents.

14. States' moves toward a more dominant role in teacher certification, in selection of teaching competencies to be demonstrated, and in approaches that hold teachers responsible for predetermined objectives.

15. Resignation of Sidney P. Marland, Jr. as the first Assistant Secretary for Education; confirmation of John R. Ottina as Commissioner of Education, U.S. Office of Education.

DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COLLEGES, SCHOOLS, AND FOUNDATIONS (Ranked in order of present or potential significance)

1. Suggestion by the National Education Association that some 670,000 additional positions needed for the nation's schools to reduce class size, to provide special education, to provide more kindergarten and nursery programs, and to reinstate programs and services cut back since 1969.

2. Picture painted by National Commission on the Reform of Secondary Education, following a year of secondary school visits, of declining growth stabilized and therefore older teaching staffs, teacher surpluses, increased student violence, and excessive student absenteeism.

3. Continued discussions on merger of National Education Association (NEA) and American Federation of Teachers (AFT); AFT President David Selden's refusal to comply with his Executive Council's request that he resign.

4. Completion of Carnegie Commission on Higher Education report after six years of reviewing what's right, wrong, and needs to be done in higher education.

5. Report by New Jersey Department of Education that some 300,000 students in 31 states are in some form of year-round education.

6. Offer of $100 million endowment fund for United Nations University by Japanese government.